

# Reading Response Journals

Download the free Reading Response Journal Pattern and other Reader's Workshop materials from: (the prompts and lined paper are attached to this document)

Teaching Resources - [www.lauracandler.com/strategies/readingworksop.php](http://www.lauracandler.com/strategies/readingworksop.php)

Laura's main site is: [www.lauracandler.com](http://www.lauracandler.com)

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Suggestions for making the Reading Response Journals:

- Books are made so that they are the size of a folded sheet of paper (finished size  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ )
- Reading Response prompts are printed so that they are on the inside covers (front and back of the journal. Print on cardstock or construction paper for durability.
- Print the lined paper back to back.
- Include as many or as few pages as desired.
- Staple down the middle.
- Options for Reading Response Journal:
  - Have a single journal for one book (i.e. novel study)
  - Have a thicker journal for use as a general-use book to respond to a variety of texts
  - Use occasional responses as a means of formative assessment (call it a quiz response)
  - Consider using the journal to have students:
    - Make an entry both before and after the reading
    - Responding to a prompt of your choice
    - Responding to a prompt of their choice
    - Making "free" responses - let the students just "write" about their reading
- Consider using other prompts on the inside covers of a booklet for students to respond to their writing.

Sources @ [www.readingstrategiesthatwork.wikispaces.com](http://www.readingstrategiesthatwork.wikispaces.com):

- Critical Thinking-Reader's Response Questions for Fiction Texts
- Literature Response Stems
- Non-Fiction Reading Response Choice Board
- Thinking Prompts for Responding to a Text - Poster and Cards



## Fiction Response Journal Prompts

Read the selection and write a response. Begin each response with the book title and the date of your journal entry.



Book Title Date

- Tell about what happened in the story.
- Ask questions about things that confuse you or that you wonder about.
- Describe your feelings about the characters, setting, or the events.
- Copy down a quote from a character and tell why you think it's meaningful.
- Describe your favorite part.
- Make a prediction about what will happen next. Explain why you feel this way.
- Tell how you would react if you were one of the characters in the story.
- Describe a part that surprised you.
- Does the author use any strong imagery in the story (similes, metaphors, etc.)? Give examples and tell why you like them.
- Write a letter to the author or a character.
- Draw pictures or create graphic organizers.

## Nonfiction Journal Prompts

Read the selection and write a response. Begin each response with the book title and the date of your journal entry.



Book Title Date

### Before you read the book . . .

- What do you know about the topic before getting started on the book?
- What do you want to learn?
- Why did you choose this book?

### While reading the book . . .

- What information surprised you?
- How can you use this information in your life?
- What information do you question or think might not be correct? How might you verify it or find out more?
- What is the most important thing you have learned? Why?
- What is the most interesting thing you read?
- Discuss the text structure used in the book.
- What techniques does the author use to make this information easy to understand?
- Where do you think you could look for more information on this topic?

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